

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 6, 2005 in reference to the above-identified application. The Examiner set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months, making the present Amendment due by December 6, 2005. Filed concurrently herewith is a request for a three-month extension of time so that the present Amendment is due by March 6, 2006.

In that Office Action, claims 1-36 were pending. However, claims 10, 11, 19-21 and 32-34 were withdrawn from consideration. Applicant hereby confirms the election with traverse to prosecute the invention of Species I, including claims 1-9, 12-18, 22-31, 35 and 36.

Turning to the elected claims, then, claims 1-6, 15, 17, 18, 22-26, 30, 35 and 36 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0084074 to Chiu under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claims 1-9, 12-15, 17, 18 and 22-30 were rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,244,001 to Lynch in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,723,673 to Call under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 16, 31, 35 and 36 were rejected as obvious over Lynch in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,884,647 to Dwek under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Pursuant to the present Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include recitations from former dependent claims 15 and 16, and, accordingly, claims 15 and 16 have been canceled. In addition, this language now being found in paragraph 1(D) further includes the recitation that "each of said upper and lower center fittings including oppositely projecting fitting lobes that longitudinally offset from one another". The structure of such center fittings having longitudinally offset lobes is not fully and fairly disclosed in any of the applied references. While Chiu

discloses scissoring bars, connectors 38 and 42 do not have lobes that are laterally offset. Rather, no fitting at all is provided with the center connection. These floating brackets are illustrated in Figure 7(c) paragraph [0029]. The Lynch patent does not disclose center fittings having any lobes. Likewise, nothing in Dwek appears to teach center fittings having laterally offset lobes. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowable as amended.

Independent claim 22 has been amended to recite that the edge scissor assemblies are "each constructed by at least one pair of scissor bars pivotally connected to one another". The socket fittings on the outer upper ends and outer lower ends are provided with socket fitting. These socket fittings terminated in rounded arm ends having substantially parallel opposed face portions. Moreover, the lobes on the upper and lower mounts terminate in rounded ends. In addition, the socket fittings have a female cavity mountably receiving an end portion of a respective scissor bar. While Chiu does disclose fittings which have a female cavity, the fittings do not terminate in rounded ends to mate with rounded end lobes allowing for freer pivoting. The combination of Lynch and Call do not teach this recited structure since the fittings of Call) even though they are not scissor fittings) fit within the tubular bars. Accordingly, claim 22 is believed allowable.

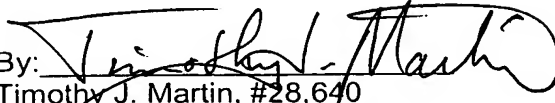
No additional claims fees are believed to be payable upon the Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the required fees, or to credit any overpayment, to deposit account number 13-1940.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present application is in complete condition for allowance, and action to that end is courteously solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved prior to the granting of this application, the

Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

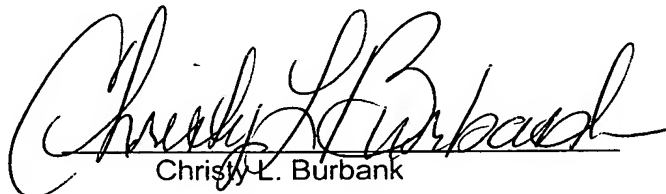
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that the foregoing **AMENDMENT (13 pages), REQUEST FOR THREE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME (2 pages) and Check No. 19085** in the amount of **\$510.00** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 17 day of March, 2006.


Chris L. Burbank